

The Johnson Brothers of New Brunswick, N. J., owned Fern hall and at that time were preparing to publish a beautifully illustrated catalogue stating the possibilities of Crystal lake. The Carbondale Leader stated at the time that the Johnsons had engaged a "clever" writer to explore fully the possibilities of the resort and that the "Brewster of Carbondale" company had had an artist at the lake for several weeks making sketches for the booklet.

A Mr. Sharpless of Philadelphia had a tract of land he wished to dispose of and had turned it over to Mr. E. K. Morse, agent for the Crystal Lake Park company, who was to sell it. Mr. Sharpless had plans to choose from among those who would apply for bits of the land as he wished to maintain the "tone" of the place.

It had been proposed that an electric street railway be established between Carbondale and the lake. The residents of the lake were at first in favor of the idea, but after thinking the proposition over a large majority was against it. The reason for this mass reversal was explained the following way:

"The colony of cottagers has grown very satisfactorily this year without such a line, and while such an enterprise might increase the number who want properties it is believed that the quality of the applicants would not be up to the required point, and the sudden influx of everybody and anybody for a days outing would be as bad as the present grass hopper plague is to the farmer.

"They would overrun the shores, and hotels, would trample the lawns, bring John Barleycorn with them, and remain to make the welkin ring and the nights consequently hideous, sleepless and terrifying."

Among those who had just built new homes in 1895 were S. Bolton, F. E. Burr, George S. Horn, Esq., of Scranton, John J. Simpson and J. B. Shannon.

There had never been so many camping parties as there had been that year. Several groups were already there and more were expected. The July 23 edition of the Leader stated "Two other parties including "Ike" Singer, "Andy" O'Connell, Mark Twain and other humorists, would arrive soon. The residents here never quite reach the full measure of their enjoyment until these jokers appear."